

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A moldable-foam molding ~~whose~~ with a density is in the ~~range~~ from 8 to 200 g/l, obtainable via fusion of prefoamed foam beads ~~composed of~~ comprising expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials, wherein the pelletized polymer materials comprise from 1 to 50% by weight, ~~based on polymer, of a filler~~ of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina, ~~or~~ and glass beads.

2. (Currently amended) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 1, wherein ~~more than 80% of the cells of the individual~~ the prefoamed foam beads include cells of which more than 80% are of closed-cell type.

3. (Currently amended) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ which comprises, as thermoplastic polymer, wherein the polymer materials include a styrene polymer.

4. (Currently amended) The moldable-foam molding according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~proportion of the~~ filler is present from 5 to 30% by weight, ~~based on the thermoplastic polymer.~~

5. (Currently amended) The moldable foam molding according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the filler has an average particle diameter ~~in the range~~ from 1 to 50 μm .

6. (Currently amended) The moldable foam molding according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5, which also comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising from 0.1 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.

7. (Currently amended) An expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material which comprises from 5 to 50% by weight of ~~a filler~~ one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina, ~~or~~ and glass beads.

8. (Currently amended) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, ~~which comprises~~

~~a) from 5 to 50% by weight of a filler, selected from talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina, or glass beads, and~~

~~b) further comprising~~ from 2 to 40% by weight of expandable graphite with an average particle size ~~in the range~~ from 10 to 1000 μm ,

~~c) from 0 to 20% by weight of red phosphorus or an organic or inorganic phosphate, phosphite or phosphonate, and~~

~~d) from 0 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.~~

9. (Currently amended) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, which comprises from 3 to 7% by weight of an organic blowing agent.

10. (Currently amended) A process for preparing expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials, ~~encompassing~~ comprising the steps of

a) ~~using a static or dynamic mixer at a temperature of at least 150°C to incorporate~~ incorporating an organic blowing agent and from 5 to 50% by weight of a filler into ~~the a~~ polymer melt using a static or dynamic mixer at a temperature of at least 150°C,

b) cooling the ~~filled~~ polymer melt ~~comprising blowing agent~~ to a temperature of at least 120°C or less,

c) discharge via a die plate with holes whose diameter ~~at the discharge from the die~~ is at most 1.5 mm, and

d) pelletizing the melt ~~comprising blowing agent directly~~ downstream of the die plate under water at a pressure ~~in the range~~ from 1 to 20 bar.

11. (Currently amended) A process for producing moldable-foam moldings according to claim 1, which comprises using hot air or steam to prefoam expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials ~~according to claim 7~~ comprising 5 to 50% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads in a first step to give foam beads whose density is in the range from 8 to 200 g/l, and fusing the material in a second step in a closed mold.

12. (New) The moldable foam molding according to claim 4, wherein the filler has an average particle diameter from 1 to 50 µm.

13. (New) A moldable-foam molding prepared by a process comprising:
providing prefoamed foam beads, wherein the foam beads comprise polymer materials and from 5 to 30% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate,

calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads, the prefoamed foam beads having been exposed using hot air or steam; and

fusing the prefoamed foam beads in a closed mold, wherein the density of the molding is from 8 to 200 g/l.

14. (New) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the preformed foam beads include cells of which more than 80% are of closed-cell type.

15. (New) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the polymer materials are styrene-based materials, and the filler has an average particle diameter of from 1 to 50 μm .

16. (New) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the prefoamed foam beads comprise 2 to 40% by weight of expanded graphite with an average particle size from 10 to 1,000 μm .

17. (New) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, further comprising 0.1 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.